



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Local Competitor Profile

August Gonsoulin — Keeping the Engine Running

August Gonsoulin will be 69 years old soon, but he is brand new when it comes to the National Veterans Golden Age Games. He learned about the Games from a veteran information newspaper he read at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, and is eager to give it his best shot. An Air Force veteran who served during the 1960s, Gonsoulin will compete in bowling, table tennis, and 9-ball at the 2007 event.

As a long-time volunteer, Gonsoulin is no stranger to the founder of the Games, the Department of Veterans Affairs. He drives the van bringing the veterans to the medical center from Beaumont for their health care appointments. Although Gonsoulin developed lung cancer about five years ago and lost half of his left lung, he knows the importance of keeping active and aspires to someday participate in the Senior Olympics.



After his military service, Gonsoulin spent 35 years in the architectural business and was involved in inspecting buildings for handicapped accessibility. Today, he spends his spare time bowling and showing classic cars. His bowling team, “Sam’s Guys,” won first place in the Second Division at Beaumont’s 2007 Annual Bowling Tournament.

What really keeps Gonsoulin’s engine running is showing off his pride and joy, a 1975 Cadillac. He recently won second place in the “Bringing Back Memories” event sponsored by the Best Years Senior Center in the 1970-1979 model category. He also won third place in the May 2005 Car Show, and second place in the city’s “2005 Texas Hot Summer Nites” in a GM car model category.

August Gonsoulin considers himself quiet and reserved. When asked about his philosophy of life, he said, “I live day by day.” That may be true, but watch for him to compete with newfound enthusiasm and vigor at the 21st National Veterans Golden Age Games this August.

